

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC

H I G H S C H O O L

Legislative Testimony
Finance Committee

SB 29 An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements,
Transportation and Other Purposes
March 13, 2014
Cary M. Dupont

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Cary M. Dupont and I am the President/Chief Administrator at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. I am writing to testify in support of SB 29, and to request that funds for school security be made available to non-public schools.

Within the last year, many schools in Connecticut have made the decision to improve security procedures for their students. Governor Malloy has announced that grants in excess of 15 million dollars will be made available to public schools throughout the state. None of this money has been offered to Catholic schools.

At St. Paul Catholic High School, we have identified making security improvements to include: cameras monitoring all access doors to the building and parking lots, replacing glass access doors, and providing for an outside alert notification system/horn. Many other Catholic schools have also made plans to make a vital investment in security upgrades. Schools may have to make the difficult choice of cutting other areas of spending in order to protect their students.

Shouldn't the safety of ALL Connecticut students be a priority? If nursing and transportation services for non-public students are funded by the state, shouldn't school security be funded as well? All students deserve a safe learning environment, regardless of where they attend school. I believe that the State of Connecticut has an ethical obligation to ensure that students in Catholic and other non-public schools have the same security as students in our public schools.

I urge you to support SB 29, and to allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut. Please help us to keep all of Connecticut's students safe.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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